

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of limiting playback of an electronic presentation, wherein a playback device is used to play back the electronic presentation, the method comprising obtaining a playback time limit for the playback device, wherein the playback time limit is used to restrict playback of the electronic presentation according to a measure of actual cumulative time of the electronic presentation by the playback device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the playback time limit is provided in a content license transferred via a network to the playback device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the playback time limit is derived from a running time of the electronic presentation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the playback time limit is longer than the running time of the electronic presentation.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein a default playback time limit is derived.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the default playback time limit is derived from a computation.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the default playback time limit is derived by multiplying a running time of the electronic presentation by 1.75.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the default playback time limit is derived from a stored value.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the playback device includes a server that provides streamed content.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the actual cumulative time does not include intervals where playback is stopped.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
obtaining a “number of plays” limit at the playback device, wherein the number of plays limit is used with the playback time limit to restrict playback of the electronic presentation by the playback device.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the playback device includes both secure and non-secure processing, wherein the playback device is coupled to a server processor via a network, the method further comprising

transferring the playback time limit to the playback device for secure processing;  
and

using the secure processor to transfer at least a portion of the electronic presentation to the playback device for rendering, at least a portion of the rendering to take place in the non-secure processing.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a secure processor is used to perform the secure processing, the method further comprising

using the secure processor to receive a secure time signal via the network; and

using the secure time signal with the playback time limit to restrict playback of the electronic presentation by the playback device.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the actual cumulative time does not include time during which the electronic presentation is not being played back.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the playback device includes secure processing and non-secure processing, the method further comprising

using the non-secure processing to determine when one of the following modes of playback have been selected by a user: pause, fast forward, rewind, stop, variable speed playback, variable speed rewind;

using the secure processing to update the actual cumulative time in response to one or more of the modes determined by the non-secure processing.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising

omitting update of the actual cumulative time for the modes of pause, rewind, and stop.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising  
determining whether a mode is being used by monitoring the rate at which a  
requesting process makes requests for decryption.
18. The method of claim 16, further comprising  
omitting update of the actual cumulative time for the mode of fast forward.
19. A method for limiting playback of an electronic presentation on a playback  
device, the method comprising  
receiving a playback time limit;  
measuring actual time of the electronic presentation at the playback device; and  
comparing the actual playback time with the playback time limit to determine  
whether to permit additional playback of the electronic presentation.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of comparing is performed in  
response to a request to decrypt a portion of the electronic presentation.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the request to decrypt a portion of the  
electronic presentation is made to a secure processor.
22. The method of claim 19, wherein the playback time limit is provided in a  
content license transferred via a network to the playback device.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the playback time limit is derived from a running time of the electronic presentation.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the playback time limit is longer than the running time of the electronic presentation.

25. The method of claim 19, further comprising  
receiving a “number of plays” limit, wherein the number of plays limit is used with the playback time limit to restrict playback of the electronic presentation by the playback device.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein the playback device includes a server that provides streamed content.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein the playback device includes both secure and non-secure processing, wherein the playback device is coupled to a network, the method further comprising  
using the secure processing to receive the playback time limit; and  
using the non-secure processing to render at least a portion of the electronic presentation.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein a secure processor is used to perform the secure processing, the method further comprising

using the secure processor to receives a secure time signal via the network; and

using the secure time signal with the playback time limit to restrict playback of the electronic presentation by the playback device.

29. The method of claim 19, wherein the actual cumulative time does not include time during which the electronic presentation is not being played back.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the actual cumulative time does not include time during which the electronic presentation is in one or more of the following modes: pause, rewind, or stop.

31. An apparatus for limiting playback of an electronic presentation on a playback device, the apparatus comprising

a receiver for receiving a playback time limit;

a detector for measuring actual time of the electronic presentation at the playback device; and

a comparator for comparing the actual playback time with the playback time limit to determine whether to permit additional playback of the electronic presentation.

32. A computer-readable medium including instructions executable by a processor for limiting playback of an electronic presentation in a digital rights management system, wherein a playback device is used to play back the electronic presentation, the computer-readable medium comprising

one or more instructions for transferring a playback time limit to the playback device, wherein the playback time limit is used to restrict playback of the electronic presentation according to a measure of actual cumulative time of the electronic presentation by the playback device.